

Cultivating the Soil of our Hearts

“But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

-Matthew 13:23

Last Sunday we heard the parable of the sower. This is an allegory about the kingdom of God in which Jesus tells the story of a farmer who sowed seed in various places. Some seed fell on the path, and was eaten by birds. Some fell on rocky ground, and sprouted quickly but died without depth of soil. Some fell among thorns, which grew up around it and choked it. And some fell on good soil, where it yielded a plentiful harvest.



Jesus explains that this is like the word sown in us. Sometimes we hear God's word or God's voice, but we don't even take it in. Other times we embrace the Good News, only to have our renewal fade away when life becomes busy; or we hear God's call to live according to Jesus' way of love, but our desires for wealth and status remain with us and lead us astray. Only when the message transforms our lives in a lasting way can God's love and grace grow and blossom within us.

What kind of soil are we? Most of us have been different types of soil at different times in our lives. Perhaps we had a rebellious youth, or a phase of ambition that outweighed our longing for relationship with God. Maybe we had a vibrant faith at one time, but later we found that it hadn't stayed with us through difficult seasons of life. Or maybe we're fortunate enough that our faith has sustained us throughout all our ups and downs, so far. No matter where we've been, though, the important question is, where are we now, and how do we cultivate the soil of our hearts, to make it a fertile place for God's goodness and love to grow, today?

One simple practice that fits well even into the busiest of lives is counting our blessings daily. When we're mindful of God's blessings, we will find that we become more attuned to the blessings in our lives which we hadn't noticed before. And the natural response to blessing is not only thankfulness, but going out and sharing joy and blessing with others. Perhaps we can use consistent gratitude as a fertilizer for the soil within our hearts, to make it ready to receive the hope and peace that God has in store for us. May our thankfulness lead to growth of the word within us, and within the world in which we live.

Blessings,
Mother Terry+



Weekly Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayers

Thursdays at 10 a.m.
Beginning August 17

Next month, we invite you to join us for our new mid-week service of Holy Eucharist. If you'd like to receive prayers for healing, there will be opportunity for anointing with holy oil and healing prayers with the clergy.

Afterward, please stick around for a quick cup of tea or coffee and some conversation. All are welcome!

The **Vancouver School of Theology and St. Andrew's Hall** are delighted to announce that **Andrew Root**, PhD, Princeton Theological Seminary, will be the lead speaker at the inaugural Cork Lecture and Workshop.

Friday August 11, 7pm

Living After a Pandemic or Why We're All So Exhausted: The Church in a Time Crisis

It's often assumed the church and local congregations are in a crisis of resources. Congregations are losing people, money, and overall cultural influence. There is a misguided assumption that what ails the congregation is this loss of resources. The crisis the local congregation faces is not a loss of resources, but a loss of time which just keeps speeding up. And local congregations and denominations simply can't keep up with technology, social life and pace. Congregations can attend to sacred time in a late modernity of accelerating time, to move forward faithfully, and how denominations might find revitalization.

Saturday August 12, 10-2 p.m. (Lunch included)

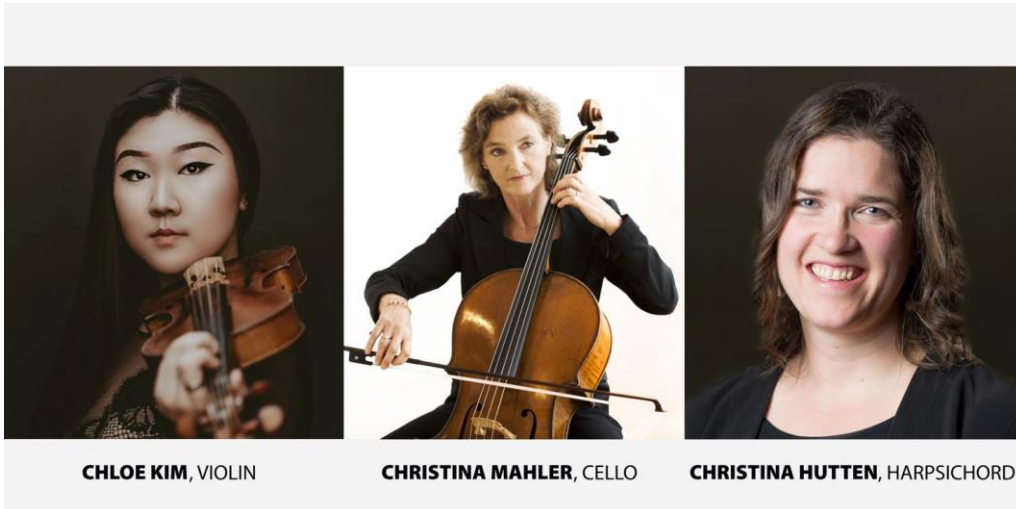
Ministry Inside the Immanent Frame: The Task of Speaking of God in a Secular Age

Congregational life isn't easy task in our time. Institutions are weaker, budgets are in decline, people are uninterested, and commitment is wavering. But these are only symptoms of a bigger issue that many congregations find themselves in an identity crisis. Examining what living in a secular age does to congregational identity and how pastors and lay leaders can find new footing within it.

While there is no charge for attendance registration is required for each of the sessions.

Please click on the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/cork-lecture-workshop-tickets-608708953867?aff=oddtcreator>

Music around the Diocese



CHLOE KIM, VIOLIN

CHRISTINA MAHLER, CELLO

CHRISTINA HUTTEN, HARPSICHORD

The brilliant virtuoso violinist Chloe Kim is joined by Christina Mahler, former principal cellist of Tafelmusik, and Christina Hutten, well-known as organist and harpsichordist with the Pacific Baroque Orchestra and Early Music Vancouver for a summertime concert.

The programme for the concert has been curated to highlight the wonderful work that the St James Music Academy does by providing free music education for children on the downtown Eastside, and how that parallels the work that composers would have done and benefitted from themselves in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Two Performances will be held at St. James Anglican Church,
303 E. Cordova St., Vancouver on

Saturday, August 12 at 7.30 pm

Sunday, August 13 matinée at 3 pm

Tickets at Eventbrite.

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/triptych-chloe-kim-christina-mahler-and-christina-hutten-in-concert-tickets-627783125227?aff=oddtcreator>

Organ Concert



On Friday, August 25 from 7:30-9:30pm at St. James Anglican Church, 303 E. Cordova St., Vancouver, renown Polish concert organist Michał Szostak, performs on St James' majestic three-manual Casavant organ.

The concert will include music by Bach, Chopin, Lefébure-Wély, and Vierne. Admission is by donation, and the event is followed by a reception. Please confirm your attendance for planning purposes.

[**Confirm your attendance**](#)

Prayer List

If you request that someone's name be added to the prayer list, please keep in touch with us. At the end of each month, all names will be removed, so you will need to add the names again at the end of each month. Please also let us know if you want someone removed from the list. Email the office (church@sjs.net) anytime! Thank you.

Financial Support – Stewardship

If you would like to make a financial



contribution to help support the worship and ministry of St. John's Shaughnessy, please do! You can use this QR code (point your phone's camera at it) and it will take you to the donation page of our website.

If you have recently made a contribution online or by cheque, thank you so very much! If you currently give by Pre-Authorized Donation, thank you! Our church has been affected by COVID-19 in many ways and financial giving is certainly one.

If you would like to give via monthly Pre-Authorized Donations (easy to change and easy to cancel), please contact Ann in the office (church.office@sjs.net or 604-731-4966).

If you would like to give to the church using a credit card, please use the DONATE button on our website (Canada Helps on top of page one, and Paypal on the bottom of page one). Cheques may be mailed or dropped through the church mail.

ST. JOHN'S, SHAUGHNESSY STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

Please contact the parish office if you would like to be added to our mailing list, so that we may let you know about upcoming events.

Clergy and Staff

The Reverend Terry Shields Dirbas, Rector terry.dirbas@sjs.net
The Reverend James Hwang, Curate jhwang@sjs.net
The Reverend Dr. Marilyn Hames, *Honorary Assisting Priest*
The Reverend Karin Fulcher, *Honorary Deacon*
The Reverend Pitman Potter, *Honorary Deacon*
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